Iowa's 2012 Summer Wild Turkey Survey

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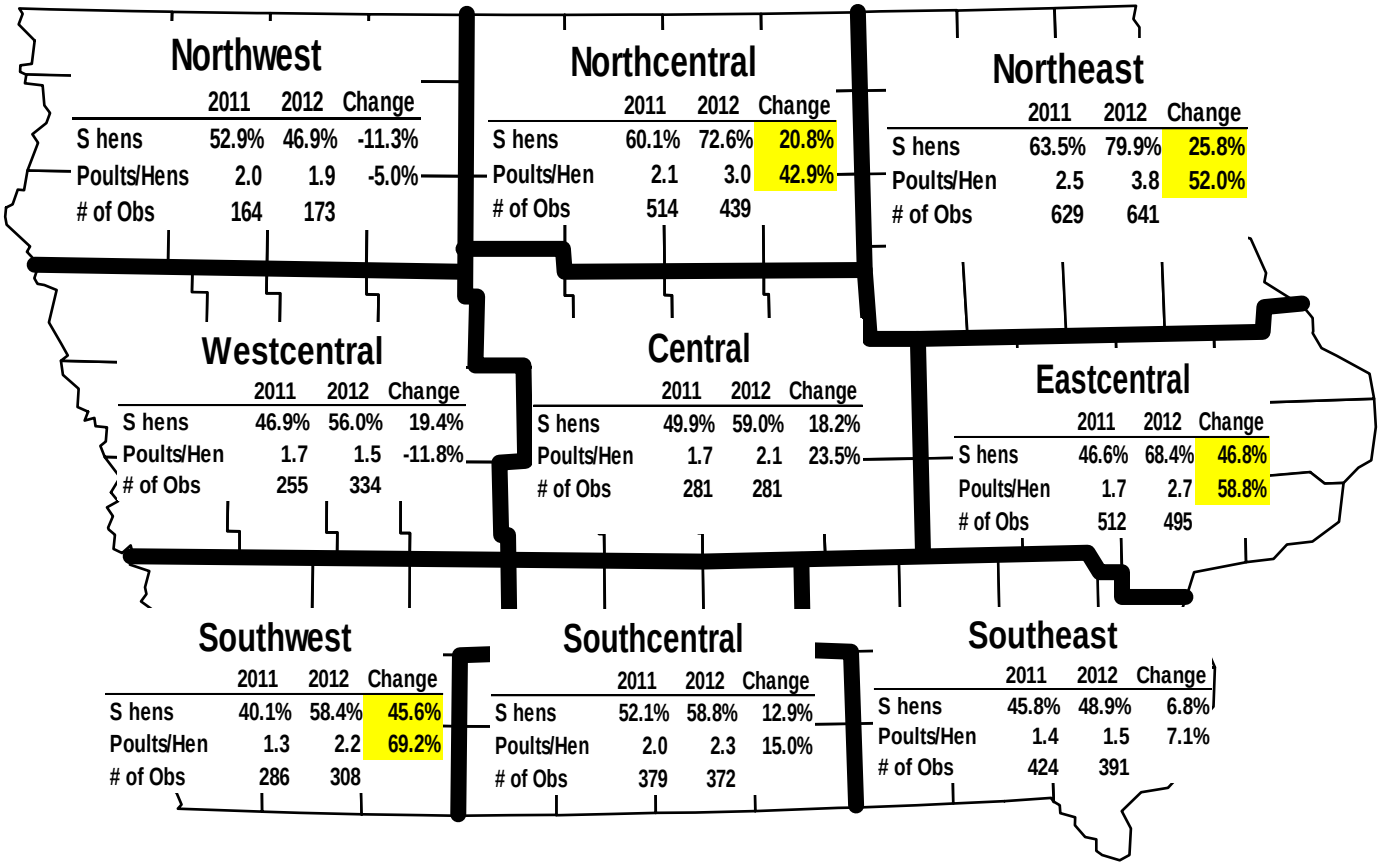
We have completed analysis of the data from survey cards received this summer. In July-August, cooperators recorded turkey observations, documenting the number of hens, poults, and toms observed throughout Iowa. In the figure below, 2012 results are compared to the average value from the previous year. The highlighted values represent changes that were statistically significant (meaning that the differences observed between the years, were substantial & meaningful changes). On the reverse side is survey information received from our annual bowhunter survey over the past 7 years.

The information received from the turkey brood survey is essential in order to help monitor turkey reproduction in Iowa. This information is crucial to successful turkey management in Iowa, and could not be accomplished without your volunteer & staff assistance. We thank those who helped with the survey this year and encourage other volunteers to help in future years.

2012 Summer Turkey Survey

Statewide

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	50.6%	60.6%	19.8%
Poults/Hens	1.8	2.3	27.8%
# of Obs	3444	3434	



Northwest

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	52.9%	46.9%	-11.3%
Poults/Hens	2.0	1.9	-5.0%
# of Obs	164	173	

Northcentral

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	60.1%	72.6%	20.8%
Poults/Hen	2.1	3.0	42.9%
# of Obs	514	439	

Northeast

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	63.5%	79.9%	25.8%
Poults/Hen	2.5	3.8	52.0%
# of Obs	629	641	

Westcentral

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	46.9%	56.0%	19.4%
Poults/Hen	1.7	1.5	-11.8%
# of Obs	255	334	

Central

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	49.9%	59.0%	18.2%
Poults/Hen	1.7	2.1	23.5%
# of Obs	281	281	

Eastcentral

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	46.6%	68.4%	46.8%
Poults/Hen	1.7	2.7	58.8%
# of Obs	512	495	

Southwest

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	40.1%	58.4%	45.6%
Poults/Hen	1.3	2.2	69.2%
# of Obs	286	308	

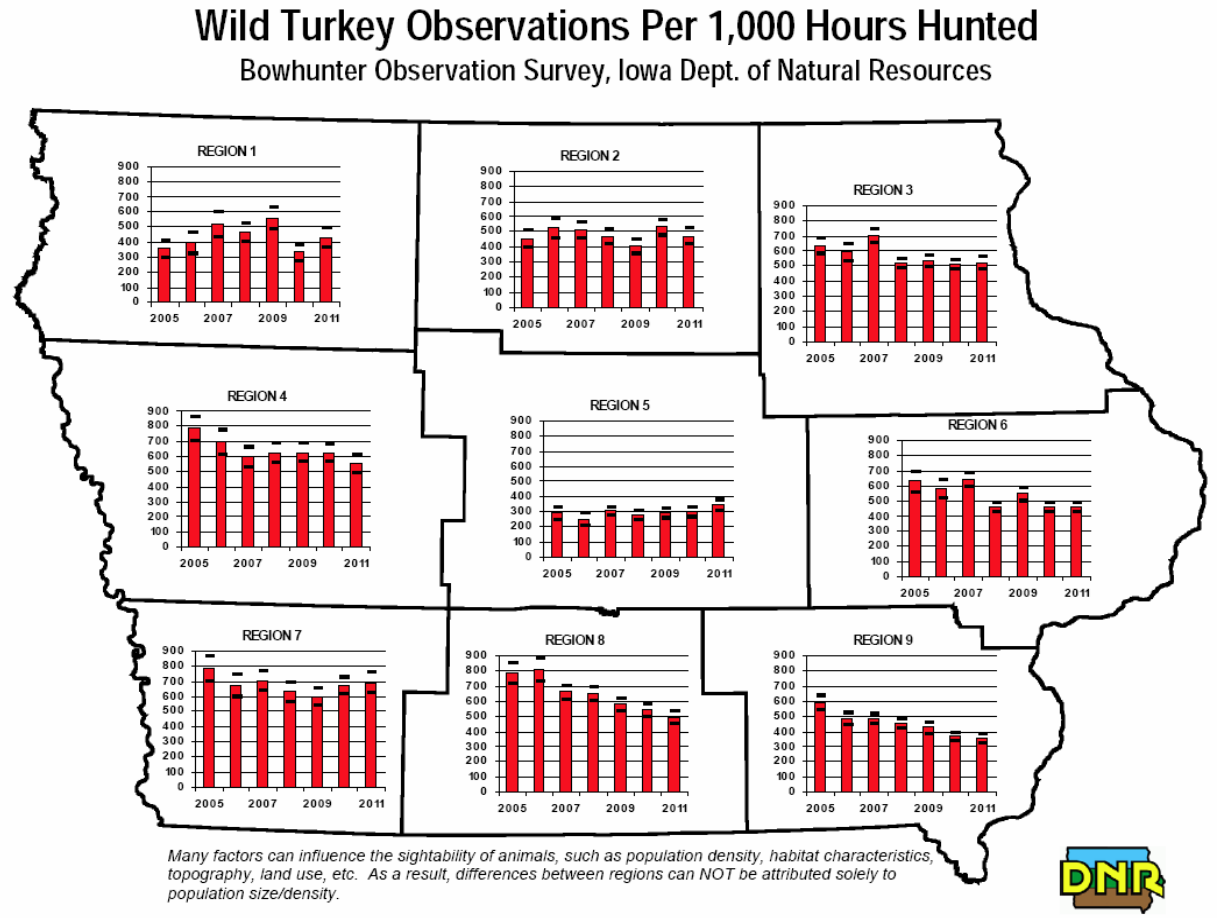
Southcentral

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	52.1%	58.8%	12.9%
Poults/Hen	2.0	2.3	15.0%
# of Obs	379	372	

Southeast

	2011	2012	Change
S hens	45.8%	48.9%	6.8%
Poults/Hen	1.4	1.5	7.1%
# of Obs	424	391	

S hens = percent of successful hens observed with a brood.
Poults/Hen = number poults observed per all hens.
# of Obs = number times turkeys were observed by cooperators.
Percent change highlighted if statistically significant



Results from Iowa's 2012 summer wild turkey survey indicated a statewide increase in turkey reproduction from the previous year. Statewide, the average number of hens observed with a brood increased by 20%, while the average number of poults observed per hen increased by 28%. Regionally, north central, northeast, east central, and southwest Iowa all experienced a significant increase in turkey reproduction for both categories (hens observed with broods, and number of poults per hens). All other regions except northwest & west central experienced increases in turkey reproduction, but they were not statistically significant. Only Northwest Iowa experienced a significant decline in both categories between 2012 and 2011. The west central region appeared to have an increase in successful hens and a decrease in the number of poults observed with hens, but differences between years were not statistically significant. Dry weather patterns in the spring and summer of 2012 likely helped the large increases in turkey reproduction throughout most of the state. May rainfall was 50-75% below average in most of the state, with the exception of northwest Iowa, which experienced 150-200% increase in rainfall. June weather patterns continued to be dry, with nearly all the state experiencing 4 inches below normal rainfall (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php).

The bowhunter observation survey has recorded declines in turkey numbers in southern Iowa over the past several years. This is expected because of several repeated years of above normal spring rainfall contributing to reduced turkey reproduction. This year's substantial increase in turkey reproduction will hopefully end this downward trend. The bowhunter observation survey will be conducted in fall 2012 and will supplement information on turkey population trends across the state.

Turkey reproduction has been reduced over the past few years in several parts of Iowa. This year's increase of hens observed with broods and the increase of poults observed with hens was encouraging. The turkey population in Iowa has remained stable, especially when compared to other regions of the U.S, but is lower than in previous years. Hunter harvest success rates and proportion of adult toms harvested have remained similar for the past few years, indicating hunters still have great opportunity finding and harvesting turkeys. We expect this year's increase in turkey reproduction to benefit Iowa's turkey population and provide increased viewing and hunting opportunities.

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